UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1798
21 December 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of UNFICYP for six months to 30 June 1995; urges leaders of both communities to promote tolerance and reconciliation.

+ Secretary-General says former United States President Carter's visit to former Yugoslavia created new momentum which can be built upon; Special Representative to visit Sarajevo and Pale tomorrow, with view to formal signing of Bosnian cease-fire agreement.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly appropriate $937 million for peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia and Georgia; approves extra $13 million for other missions and programmes.

+ Multinational Force in Haiti reports steady progress in establishing Interim Public Security Force, noting acceptance by Haitian people; launches anti-crime missions in Port-au-Prince area.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2 billion as of 15 December; $500 million owed to regular budget and $1.5 billion to peace-keeping.

+ Rwandan Government says it will cooperate fully with International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in establishment of Prosecutor's Office in January.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months to 30 June 1995. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 969 (1994). The Council expressed its concern that there had been no progress towards a final political solution, and urged the leaders of both communities to promote tolerance and reconciliation between the two communities. In a report to the Council dated 12 December, the Secretary-General said the Force's presence was indispensable to the maintenance of the cease-fire and law and order on the island.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that Former United States President Jimmy Carter's visit to the former Yugoslavia created a new momentum which can be built upon, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Carter yesterday announced that the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb leadership had agreed to a four-month cease-fire.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi will meet with the parties in Sarajevo and Pale tomorrow, with a view to the formal signing of a cease-fire agreement to take effect on Friday, the spokesman continued. Talks on a complete cessation of hostilities are expected to begin soon, possibly early next week.

The spokesman went on to say that today was the quietest day in the Bihac pocket for several weeks. Meanwhile, the Zagreb-Belgrade international highway reopened "without a hitch". However, there was bad news from Sarajevo -- only two out of 25 scheduled flights landed at the city today as a result of heavy snow.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $937 million gross for United Nations peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia and Georgia. It recommended an additional $13 million for other missions and programmes. The Committee took those actions yesterday, by approving two draft resolutions and four draft decisions without a vote.

By the terms of one draft resolution, the Assembly would appropriate $928 million gross ($922 million net) for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995. For periods after that, it would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $135 million monthly for the period 1 April to 30 June 1995. Meanwhile, the Assembly would assess Member States $404 million.

The other draft resolution would have the Assembly appropriate almost $9 million gross ($8.5 million net) for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for the period from 1 July 1994 to 13 January 1995. After that date, the Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $1.7 million monthly for a six-month period, and assess Member States the same amount.

By its four draft decisions, the Committee recommended the following appropriations: $10 million for the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA); $2.2 million for the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories; almost $800,000 for the International Seabed Authority of the Law of the Sea for the period 16 November 1994 to 31 December 1995; and $400,000 for the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

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There has been steady progress in the establishment of the Haitian Interim Public Security Force, according to the latest report of the Multinational Force. Covering the two-week period from 4 to 18 December, it was transmitted by the United States to the President of the Security Council in a letter dated 19 December. The report said international police personnel had been training the Interim Public Security Force, and monitoring it and the Force armée d'Haiti for human rights abuses. A total of 3,000 students have now graduated from the transition course for the Interim Force, and have won the acceptance of the Haitian people.

Although incidents of violence among Haitians remained minimal and sporadic, the Multinational Force was involved in two violent incidents, according to the report. On 14 December, a patrol encountered a robbery in progress and opened fire, killing one Haitian. The following day in Gonaives, a special forces team had to use pepper spray on a crowd advancing on it. While threats to the Multinational Force remained low, isolated incidents of crime in the Port-au-Prince area prompted it to launch anti-crime missions. Those missions demonstrated the Force's commitment to maintaining a secure and stable environment in the city, the report noted.

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As of 15 December, Member States owed the United Nations some $2 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, more than $500 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.5 billion was for peace-keeping operations. Regular budget assessments for 1995 will be sent out to Member States on 1 January.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed a total of $645 million to the regular and peace-keeping budgets. The Russian Federation owed the United Nations $542 million.

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The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Justice Richard Goldstone, has had two days of talks with the Rwandan Government in Kigali, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Government assured Mr. Goldstone that it would cooperate fully in the establishment of the Office of the Prosecutor of the Rwanda Tribunal. The Office is expected to be opened next month.

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